

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. In this case, Sinclair Broadcasting is purposely airing propaganda disguised as true journalism with no regard for fairness or truth. The effect of this film, released days before the election, is designed to inflame voters against John Kerry. We are repulsed by this kind of irresponsible and unpatriotic behavior.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Requiring 62 stations to show this film is a gross misuse of power. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We are deeply concerned by the narrowing of ownership of the media. The ability to present divergent views is evaporating before our eyes. Instead of canned, 24-hour infomercials for the conservative views, we desperately need to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. We urge you to take action on this matter.

We further request that you intervene, and prohibit Sinclair from forcing the airing of the anti-Kerry film next week.

Thank you.  
Jim and Kathy Swarts  
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